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Tour takes top Airmen around Balad

New Top 3 program rewards award winners, outstanding performers

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

Ten lucky Airmen were part of the inaugural Balad Air Base Passport Tour Oct. 27.

The new program, which is sponsored by the Top 3, takes monthly award winners and other outstanding performers on a tour of different facilities around the wing.

"This is a great opportunity for our Airmen and NCOs to see what other sections do and how their job supports the overall mission here at Balad," said Master Sgt. Boggs, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, who hosted the tour as the Top 3 sergeant of arms. "It is a worthwhile program and great opportunity for our folks to see how the entire mission comes together."

The event took Airmen on a tour of the 332nd ECES fire station and then to the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, where they learned how the security forces support operations outside the wire and secure the base.

"The security forces squadron tour was great," said Senior Airman Lisa Tomlinson, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chapel, who was invited on the tour as the president of the Panther's Airmen Advisory Council. "My husband is security forces, but I didn't realize how much more there is to do when it came to going outside the wire. It was very informative."

The group then headed over to the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, where they got up close and personal with the F-16 Fighting Falcon. Following that tour, they once again boarded the bus for their final



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Senior Airmen Daniel Rodriguez, Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, listens to Staff Sgt. Greg Cotton, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, as he explains the operation of the gun turret on an up-armored Humvee during the Balad Air Base Passport Tour Oct. 27.

visit, which was to the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron to learn about the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle.

"The Predator tour was really cool," said Senior Airman Michael Pietrantonio, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, who was selected for the tour for his contribution to the PAAC. "Working on the flightline a good amount of time, we see it in the air when it takes off and lands and it does not look that big. But when you get to see up close, it is bigger than you think."

Right now the passport tour takes place on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. But as its popularity increases, Sergeant Boggs said the program might expand to accompany more Airmen.

"We started off small, but due to the over-

whelming success we are looking to expand the tour to every Wednesday," he said.

"This program is designed to ensure all Airmen know how their unit's mission intertwines with other unit's missions to achieve the overall wing objective," said Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs, 332nd AEW command chief. "Everyone here in the wing is important, whether you work on the flightline, are moving earth or supplies or guarding TCNs on work details. Everyone has to be at the top of their game so that we can be successful in accomplishing our wing's objectives."

To learn more about the tour or to nominate one of your outstanding performers, supervisors and commanders can contact their first sergeant for more information.

There's no excuse not to buckle your seat belt

Tech. Sgt. Gerald Boarts

332nd AEW/SE

Many of you might think there are bigger things to worry about than seat belt usage. I disagree. And, if you understood the facts, you would too.

Buckling your seat belt is the easiest and quickest way to protect yourself while in a vehicle. According to Stars and Stripes, 272 people have died since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom from non-hostile action. This includes fifty-five U.S. service-members who died in vehicle accidents and reports cite the lack of seat belt use as contributing factors in many of those mishaps.

Fortunately, we have not experienced a serious motor vehicle mishap here during our rotation. But, that could all change with the adverse weather changing to slippery conditions on the roads. This will increase stopping distances and also reduce visibility.

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing safety office has conducted random seat belt checks during our rotation. Currently, our seat belt compliance rate is a not-too-impressive 72 percent.

Below are the top ten excuses why people



do not wear their seat belts at Balad.

10. "I didn't know we had to." Weak. AFI 91-207 states that all people in a moving motor vehicle on an Air Force Installation must ensure operability and use of occupant protective devices.

9. "I'm a good driver." Terrific. Can you say the same about everyone else on the road?

8. "I am wearing my body armor." Wrong! Body armor is not designed to protect you in a vehicle crash.

7. "I'm strong enough to brace myself if I suddenly stop." Really? Do you think you could catch a 300 pound barbell if it were dropped on you from 20 feet? That's the force of impact of a collision at just 30 miles per hour.

6. "I enjoy filling sand bags." The 332nd

AEW commander has directed folks not wearing seat belts to man a sand bag detail. The choice is simple, "click it or fill it."

5. "I want to be able to escape in a hurry." So you'd rather be forcibly ejected from your car by flying through the windshield? The chance of serious injury is 25 times greater if you are thrown from your car than if you remain in your seat.

4. "I just forget sometimes." Do you forget to put the key in the ignition? Do you forget to close the car door? Wearing a seat belt should be a part of your automatic routine in operating your car.

3. "Get a %#%^& life." I do not take this excuse personally, but it still won't get you out of wearing a seat belt here.

2. "I just don't think seat belts really work." Maybe the problem is they work too well? Modern shoulder and lap belts are designed to be comfortable. While your car is crashing into a hard surface, you are crashing into a fabric belt! Which would you prefer?

1. "I couldn't reach the radio." Come on, there is only one radio station in English.

If you have any questions regarding seat belt use or any other safety related question, please call 458-1204.

Congratulations

The following Balad members were promoted to their next rank Nov. 1.

Major

Grant Izzi, 332nd EAMS

Master Sergeant

Kevin Howard, 732nd ELRS
Preston Sager, 732nd ELRS
David Stokes, 732nd ELRS
Dobie Strong, 732nd ELRS
Stephen Zeiders, JSOAD-AP

Technical Sergeant

Michael Smith, 732nd ELRS

Staff Sergeant

Lionel Castellano, 332nd EOSS
Ronnie Lambert, 332nd ECES
Rafael Lopez, 332nd ECES

Information provided by 332nd AEW/PERSCO

My mom wears combat boots



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Robert Jensen

Senior Airman Kendric Green, 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility, laughs with his mother Wanda Pope, after she surprisingly stopped by Balad after weather diverted her aircraft, which was headed to Talill Air Base, Iraq. Ms. Pope is a training liaison advisor for DynCorp Engineering.

Setting personal goals is important while deployed

Maj. Jeff Sattler

332nd AEW/JA

So you've been here a while now and you've figured out what you're supposed to be doing and you've settled into your routine. You're doing great things for the Air Force and for the mission. Now let me ask you a question. What are you doing for yourself?

Here's my point: you need be doing something with yourself beyond just sleeping, eating, and going to work. If that's all you're doing, you're not really living. You're just existing. If you don't come out of this thing better than when you came in, you're just wasting your time.

All right, I know what some of you are going to say to that. You're going to say, "Hey, I'm doing the mission. That's what I'm here for." And you're right, as far as that statement goes. Your contribution to our mission here is vitally important. But you're not doing the mission 24 hours a day, although you'd probably like everybody to think you are. Besides, if you were paying attention at Right Start, you already know you have a secondary mission here. That mission is to leave here a better Airman; that's why one of our wing goals here is Strengthening Airmen.

How do you do that? Let me give you three words: set some goals. Give yourself some targets to shoot for. Challenge yourself to accomplish something while you're here. The one good thing about all those people and things you miss from back home is they aren't here to distract you. There aren't many opportunities like this because this is one of the few periods in your life that you're going to have this much time to take care of a little personal business.

I'm not talking about real lofty goals, either. In fact, they should probably be pretty basic – things you can achieve while you're here. By giving yourself a target, you have something to aim for, something to work for, something to think about beyond "are they going to have something other than alcohol-free beer at the DFAC?" And when you achieve that goal, whatever it is, your reward will be the sense that you accomplished something beyond just marking time. Later, when you look back on your deployment to Iraq, you'll see that you did something more than just go to work, go home, and watch a bunch of movies. Personal growth of any kind makes you a better person and that, in turn, makes you a more effective Airman and better able to contribute to what the Air Force is doing here and back home.

These goals I'm talking about don't necessarily have to be any-

thing that anybody else is going to care about. What's important is that you care about them. Again, I'm not talking about huge lifetime goals here. I'm talking about something you can set your sights on to accomplish while you're here. It can be just about anything. You can set a goal to lose a few pounds, improve your pool game by a certain percentage, achieve a certain time on the treadmill, earn some credit towards your degree, or try that green stuff with the carrot slivers at the DFAC salad bar. The possibilities are endless.

Let me give you an example of something I did. Before I deployed, I thought about some things I wanted to get accomplished while I was here. One of those things was to read the novel *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville. Yeah, I already know what you're thinking but just give me a minute to explain. You see, I was supposed to read that book back in 9th grade and I didn't really do it. I've been trying for the last 20 years to read it and I was always sort of embarrassed that I hadn't, especially during the years I was teaching high school English. I was always afraid the other teachers would find out and make fun of me. Having a bunch of English teachers mock you is no picnic, let me tell you, because they can use some really big words. But you know, after being here three weeks, I read that thing cover-to-cover – no easy task because ol' Herman was paid by the word, and he made sure he got every penny he could. Let me tell you, when I finished it, I felt like I'd done something really remarkable. Sure, most of you are going to think I wasted my time, and I guess I can understand that, but I wasn't doing it for anybody else but me. And I've found that when I get to one of those "down times" that we all experience out here, it sure helps to think that I was able to finally get that monkey off my back after all those years.

My next goal is to learn all those knots I blew off in Boy Scouts. Yeah, I'm a nerd. I accepted that fact a long time ago.

Look, I'm not suggesting that setting some short-term goals is going to be a life altering experience. What I am suggesting is that giving yourself something to aim for, and then working towards that and achieving it will have a great effect on your morale while you're here and when you get on that plane to go home, you will go home a better person than when you came. Somebody once said that in the absence of clearly defined goals, we become strangely loyal to performing daily acts of trivia.

So give it a shot. Maybe sign up for that CLEP test or take a course on-line. Try setting a goal this week and then get out there and reach your goal.



TODAY
3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Sustainer Theater

GOING DOWN UNDER IN BALAD

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
332nd AEW/PA

Their uniforms are different and they talk with an accent, but the members of the Australian Defense Force deployed here are playing a key role in accomplishing the mission.

Twenty-five Australians are helping Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines get the job done daily at different locations around base.

"We're very happy to be here," said Royal Australian Air Force Wing Commander Michael Paterson, who is the highest-ranking Australian at Balad. "We've been wholeheartedly accepted and have been overwhelmed by the support we've received. We feel very much a part of this team."

As the daytime nursing supervisor, RAAF Wing Commander Paterson is part of a group of 19 Australians working at the Air Force Theater Hospital. The rest of the Aussies are assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron as air traffic controllers and radar controllers.

"The easiest thing about coming over here has been the way that we've been accepted," said air traffic controller RAAF Flight Lt. James Hickey. "That has really made it a lot easier."

All of the Australians here volunteered to take part in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While most of them were nervous about their deployment, they are all happy to help get a free Iraq back on its feet.

"Our main mission here is to help with the rehabilitation of Iraq," said Australian Army Maj. Malcolm Evans, who manages the intensive care unit nurses. "It's been hard work and the hours are long, but it's been very rewarding and enjoyable."



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

Royal Australian Air Force Sergeant Vicki Dawson, a medical assistant with the Air Force Theater Hospital, checks Staff Sgt. Bruce Hodge's ankle Tuesday. RAAF Sgt. Dawson is one of 25 Australians working at Balad.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Air traffic controller RAAF Flying Officer Timothy Clark gives direction to an aircraft Wednesday.

"Looking after both U.S. and coalition forces, along with Iraqi nationals makes us feel like we're contributing to the whole cause," said ICU nurse RAAF Flight Lt. Amanda Banks.

Although the group has been widely accepted and have shown great dedication to their jobs,

naturally there have been a few minor issues along the way.

"There were some challenges early on because not only do we have U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and National Guard working up here, but we also have a lot of young controllers," RAAF Flight Lt. Hickey said. "But we've got a pretty good group ... and I think we fit in really well together."

"We use generic names for medications and the Americans use only trade names, so that's been a challenge as has been abbreviations," Australian Army Maj. Evans said. "Americans use different abbreviations than we use, so often times we have to go back to the doc's to find out what they meant."

Even with those few bumps in the road, the Americans are certainly glad their Australian counterparts are here.

"They are well-trained and highly-motivated," said Capt. Henry LeBlanc, who is the emergency room department nurse manager. "They jumped

right in and became part of the team. We wouldn't have been able to have the success we've had without them."

"This has been an exciting deployment working side-by-side with the Australian controllers," said Master Sgt. Ferdinand Erolin, Balad's tower chief controller. "This has been quite educational and certainly has broadened my perspective."

If asked about their time at Balad when they return home, the Australians say they would encourage others to come over and be part of the mission here.

"The Australian Defense Force is a small organization and to be given the opportunity to work on an operation of this scale is excellent," said air traffic controller RAAF Flying Officer Timothy Clark. "It is a great learning experience."

"We're very proud and honored to be here working along with the U.S.," RAAF Flight Lt. Banks said. "I would recommend anyone coming over to be part of this."

ON THE HOME FRONT

One Tuskegee Airmen wife tells her World War II story

A. Joseph Muniz

AFOSI EDET 2411

When Airmen are tasked to deploy, almost everything they need is either purchased for them or issued. They are also responsible for maintaining up-to-date paperwork such as wills, emergency data cards, mobility folders and other important items. However, much of the responsibility of ensuring that everyday life is maintained back in the States falls to that all-important individual, the military spouse.

This concept has not changed since World War II. At the same time the Germans were taking lives throughout Europe, they unknowingly changed lives in the United States. They established a hidden workforce that manufactured war products in the name of freedom.

Mary Louise Leonard had been a student at Wayne State College in Detroit in the early 1940s. Although she had never been to the Deep South, she had heard of Tuskegee because her father had been a Tuskegee Institute graduate before moving north. As fate would have it, she was attending a party at a friend's house when she met a man by the name of Dean B. Mohr, an engineering intern that had recently graduated from Tuskegee.

After a romantic courtship, Mohr proposed marriage shortly after he had been notified that he had been drafted. After their wedding, the new bride relocated to the small town that she had heard so much about. She felt lucky because her new husband still had a few friends in Tuskegee, which helped her quickly adapt to her new surroundings.

When her husband was sent overseas, Mary decided to rejoin her family back in Detroit. After arriving back in Michigan, she was told of a recruitment program. Being a thriving automotive center, the factories around the motor city, quickly transformed machinery that produced automobile parts to those of airplane parts. While this work needed to be done, they could no longer rely on the male work force to do it, because they were being trained and sent overseas. The workload had to rely on the



Image courtesy of U.S. National Archives

women.

Mary was quickly accepted into the program and became a prototype, "Rosie the Riveter." Working for the Ford Motor Company, she was trained to rivet aircraft wings together. She dedicated herself in her effort for the next 2 years until the war was over.

Because of the war, women started to re-examine their so-called "traditional" roles in American society. A lot of these "Rosie the Riveters" did not want to relinquish their jobs because they enjoyed the freedom of not relying on someone else. Mary had no problem rejoining her husband. Although he was drafted, Mary's husband decided to

make the military a career and was reassigned to Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio.

Colonel Dean B. Mohr retired from active service in August 1973 and relocated from Rome, N.Y., to March Air Force Base, Calif., where he worked as a contractor. Mary returned to school and later became a social worker while in California. When her husband passed away in February 1986, Mary decided that she wanted to return to the East Coast and settled in Silver Spring, Md., along with her two grown children.

Mrs. Mary L. Mohr enjoys her lifelong friendships she made with the Tuskegee Airmen and their spouses and continues to communicate with them to this day.

CMSAF Murrays debuts new insignia

Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- A new chief master sergeant of the Air Force insignia debuted Monday, and stands out as a highly distinguished symbol representative of all Airmen, officials said.

The new insignia contains the Great Seal of the United States of America and two stars in the upper blue field. The chevrons and the laurel wreath surrounding the star in the lower blue field remain unchanged to retain the legacy of the stripe worn by all 14 chief master sergeants of the Air Force.

The decision for the re-design came from a number of factors, officials said. Air Force enlisted insignias have evolved over the years, while maintaining the historical roots of the Airman star and chevrons. Today, each grade has a definable rank. Some positions such as command chiefs and first sergeants have additional distinguishing features.

Senior Air Force leaders, former chief master sergeants of the Air Force and Airmen throughout the service encouraged a re-design of the CMSAF insignia. In 2002, the process began to select a stripe that would be an even stronger representation of our enlisted force.

"A lot of people, including my predecessors, have said that the current stripe, although it is a distinctive stripe, may not be easily recognized," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. "Many young Airmen thought the stripe should have more or be more. They tell me, 'It's hard to tell the difference between you and other chiefs.'"

That distinction is important, Chief Murray said, because the chief master sergeant of the Air Force is the senior representative of more than 300,000 enlisted Airmen.

"One of the foundations of the enlisted corps is that every Airman should have the same equal opportunity to promote through the ranks and to achieve (his or her) goals," Chief Murray said.

"One of our Airmen serving today will be the 15th CMSAF and then the 16th and so on," the chief said. "This honorable position provides not only something for Airmen to look up to, but provides a goal and motivation for their service. When they see our nation's emblem in the new stripe, it will help them to realize this position, and the person who holds it, has the ultimate responsibility of leading and representing all of our Airmen -- America's Airmen. This new stripe clearly identifies who represents them to the chief of staff, the secretary, Congress and the American people."

A new insignia is not a new idea, nor is it something Chief Murray said he devised alone.

"In 2003, a formal statement was made in a meeting between the Air Force chief of staff and former chief master sergeants of the Air Force that we should change the insignia," Chief Murray said.

"The first CMSAF, Paul Airey, truly embraced this and has been a leading proponent for change," Chief Murray said. "It is something that has been supported by those before me and is something I believe is more for our Airmen to identify with, in what we stand for, in support of our nation."

"It was definitely time to update the stripe," retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric W. Benken said.



Air Force/Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

WASHINGTON -- Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray explains the significance of his new stripes during an interview in his Pentagon office Oct. 21. His new insignia became official Monday.

Chief Benken is also a strong supporter for the latest change. During his tenure, he created the command chief master sergeant position out of the former major command senior enlisted advisers and gave them a star in the top field of their insignia. Many people said that insignia began to overshadow the CMSAF insignia.

"The old one served us well, but the change is necessary, and it's for the better. The new stripe also aligns us more with the other services' senior enlisted leaders and that is a clear benefit as we go down the joint service path," Chief Benken said.

Inspiration for the re-design came from the CMSAF's official emblem, which contains the seal that has been the official national symbol since 1787.

Insignia of the top enlisted leaders from the other services provided additional inspiration. The insignia of the sergeant major of the Army also contains the seal. The insignia of the master chief petty officers of the Navy and of the Coast Guard contain an eagle with three stars above it. The sergeant major of the Marine Corps' insignia uses its service emblem and two stars. All stand out from the ranks of their peers and subordinates.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper said he liked the new stripe so much he wanted Chief Murray to put it on as soon as possible.

"This is the right time, and the right level of attention has been brought to it," Chief Murray said. "Even though (he) had already made his decision, (General Jumper) introduced it first to all of our senior officers at Corona. They warmly embraced it and, in fact, they said 'sew it on immediately.'"

"As we continue to evolve as an Air Force, we must always preserve the honor of those who served before us," Chief Murray said. "It will be a privilege to be the first of many to wear this stripe that maintains our heritage, yet provides an element of distinction to the highest enlisted position."

Weapons buy-back program a success at Kirkuk

SA John Kammarada
AFOSI

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq - The skies are a little friendlier over Northern Iraq thanks to an innovative program and hard work by a group of Airmen assigned to Kirkuk.

In early 2003, Combined Joint Task Force 7 established a Man-Portable Air Defense Systems buy-back program that provided funding and guidance to allow the coalition to acquire and purchase certain MANPAD parts for set prices.

Historically, portable air defense systems, such as the SA-7 Strella, have been easy to obtain from underground weapons markets and dealers throughout the Middle East, according to officials here. The SA-7 and other types of portable air defense systems have the capability to shoot down aircraft traveling at lower altitudes and during take-off and landing.

Reducing the threat of such weapons is a top Force Protection priority, according to Col. Gregory Fick, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander. Special Agents assigned to Air Force Office of



Courtesy photo

Special Agent Tanya Gilbert, Air Force Office of Special Investigations Expeditionary Detachment 2410, carries weapons that were recovered near Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

Special Investigations Expeditionary Detachment 2410 and the 506th AEG Explosive Ordnance Disposal team handled the threat.

Utilizing funding and classified guidance from the program, the AFOSI agents here conducted a long-term operation to eradicate the availability of MANPADS in the Kirkuk area.

The operation required the agents to travel off-base in a

high-risk environment. After collecting the weapons, Airmen in the EOD unit disabled them and ensured safe disposal.

As a result of the team's efforts, they collected a total of 148 MANPADS over an 18-month period, more than any other U.S. Air Force team during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"As a result of the success of this program, there have been no detected MANPAD launches at our aircraft in over a year,"

said Colonel Fick.

"While the buy-back program has been a huge success, our agents will continue to look for new innovative ways to take MANPADs off the streets and out of the hands of those who intend U.S. and coalition forces harm," said Lt. Col. Tom Gilkeson, Detachment 2410 commander. "Even one MANPAD in the hands of the enemy is one too many and our agents won't rest until they're gone."

Air Force officials launch user-friendly news service

Subscribers get reports via e-mail, audio, video

SAN ANTONIO -- Air Force officials announced a new e-mail service Oct. 20 that gives subscribers a user-friendly news summary with links to news and information, as well as audio and video reports.

Those who would like to receive the free e-mail news summary, called "AF Today," can subscribe by going to Air Force Link at www.af.mil and clicking on "Subscribe."

AF Today was developed after analyzing user trends and surveys showing news cus-

tomers wanted useful information with less clutter.

"Our research shows many people feel they get too much junk e-mail and spend too much time searching multiple Web sites for information," said Bob Jensen, chief of the news operations division at the Air Force News Service here. "AF Today offers our news products to our customers at their convenience."

New computer software now makes it possible to package multiple Web links and images into a single-page e-mail message. Once subscribers sign up, the system will automatically deliver the message to their

inboxes every weekday.

"In a world of deployments, mission flexibility and an ever-changing security environment, balancing a need for news and managing time is challenging," said Leslie Benito, chief of AFNS's Web operations branch. "To help meet these challenges, we find new software to give our customers targeted products and provide them with what they want."

Air Force News Service now offers 22 e-mail subscription services. These range from the weekday Air Force Print News and monthly Airman magazine to news from Air Force major commands.

Leaders unveil updated utility uniform

Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- Responding to Airmen's feedback, Air Force leaders unveiled an alternative utility uniform color scheme and pattern Nov. 2 as part of the ongoing wear-test that was announced in August 2003.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray are now wearing the latest test version of the utility uniform during visits to Airmen serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The most striking change in this version is the switch from a deep blue, gray and green color scheme to a more subdued mix of tan, blue and two shades of green. And the tiger-stripe pattern is now pixilated.

This test version includes design changes incorporated in September based on feedback from Airmen.

More than 700 people at 32 installations are wear-testing the first test uniform. These Airmen participated in scientific surveys and focus groups. Their feedback was instrumental in making these most recent adjustments. The original plan called for only 300 testers, but uniform board officials decided to increase the number of testers to get more exposure and collect more test data. A select group will test the newest version.

Data showed that a service-unique appearance was very important to Airmen.

"Ninety-one percent of the Airmen responded in favor of a distinctive Air Force utility uniform," Chief Murray said. "Airmen take great pride in serving in America's Air Force. Having a distinct uniform that presents a professional appearance to the public and our sister services, when we are at home station or deployed, is important."

A unique Air Force-designed uniform has another big advantage.

"Our new utility uniform incorporates a unique fit tailored for men and women, and a variety of realistic sizes beyond just small, medium and large," the chief said. "More than 20 percent of our Airmen are women, and we continually received feedback on how the male uniforms they currently wear



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski

The Air Force utility uniform's revised colors include tan, blue and two shades of green in a pixilated tiger-stripe pattern. Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray are wearing the updated utility uniform during visits to Airmen serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

do not fit well. Fit and comfort are important for all Airmen to project a professional military image."

Officials said they are reaping additional benefits of this particular uniform wear-test process.

Air Force Clothing Office officials took detailed measurements of as many body types as possible and recorded them into a database for future uniform design studies. Since the last such measurement in the 1960s, officials discovered that the average Airmen now has a more athletic build.

Not only are Airmen more fit to fight; they are deployed more often and for longer periods than ever before. There is no time to fuss over finicky uniforms, officials said.

"The wash and wear uniform will be easier and cheaper to maintain," said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, uniform board superintendent. "The permanent-press treatment eliminates the need for ironing, and home washing can save an Airman from \$180 to \$240 in laundry costs over the

course of a year."

Sergeant Dean oversees the wear test and leads the uniform board's campaign to display the uniform as much as possible in a variety of locations.

"The wear test allows Airmen around the world to see the uniform in work places and to give feedback on its appearance, comfort, function and maintenance," Sergeant Dean said. "The chief of staff took that feedback into consideration when making the decision to move forward with expanding the test to include the new color and pattern."

Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will field-test the new utility uniform's pattern and colors to see how they perform in extreme conditions.

In January 2005, the uniform board will standardize the pattern, material and specifications and deliver the results to the Defense Logistics Agency for production. Normal production to delivery time can take 18 to 24 months.

Defense briefs

Officials stress troop support mail policy

WASHINGTON – Department of Defense officials announced the continued suspension of the “Any Servicemember” mail program Nov. 2. Accordingly, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to servicemembers during the holiday season.

During this time of the year, the number of donation programs increases and causes mail from families and friends to be mixed with mail from unknown sources resulting in delivery delays.

DOD officials continue to emphasize that names and addresses of military servicemembers must not be distributed by the media, Web sites, companies, nonprofit organizations, schools and individuals for the purpose of collecting letters of support or donations for mailing to servicemembers.

Servicemembers should receive mail only from those friends and family to whom they personally give their address.

Military addresses should not be passed around by family members for use by donation programs. Unknown mailers could then obtain those addresses and mail harmful items to servicemembers.

For these reasons, DOD continues to indefinitely suspend general donation programs from unknown mailers.

Americans who do not have loved ones deployed overseas can still show support during the holidays by other means.

A list of these programs is available at www.defendamerica.mil.

To guarantee mail arrives in time for end-of-year holidays, family members are encouraged to view the mailing guidelines at www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/2004/pb22138.pdf.

Airmen may wear medals while awaiting system updates

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force officials want to assure Airmen that wearing eligible decorations is authorized, even if they are not currently reflected in the military personnel data system.

The affected decorations include the Korean Defense Service Medal, Gallant Unit Citation/Meritorious Unit Award, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the “V” device on the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism.

“At this time, we do not have an estimate of when the (system) will be available for update,” said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Simmons, noncommissioned officer in charge of the recognition programs branch at the Air Force Personnel Center here. “In the interim, we want to reconfirm that Airmen do not have to wait until the system is updated to wear the decorations they have earned.”

But officials stress that Airmen need to ensure they meet the proper criteria before wearing any new decoration. Eligibility requirements for each decoration can be found at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/Recently%20approved%20awards.htm.

For more information, Airmen can contact their local military personnel flight or call AFPC’s contact center at (800) 616-3775. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Meet your neighbor



Capt. Wayne Hodson

Home station: MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Unit: 332nd AEW/CASF

Family: Wife, Ann; two sons, Dylan, 5, and Jordan, 4.

Hobbies: Raising my beautiful boys, sailing and cooking for friends.

How do you contribute to the mission? I put my people first. I show them that I care and I let them do what they have been trained to do. I never let them down and they do the same for me. I support them no matter what and I treat them with dignity and respect.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? At the CASF, we Bulldogs are dedicated to our patients. We provide first rate care for them while they are with us and we get them on their way home to their families. There is nothing more satisfying than returning soldiers safely into the arms of America.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? I’ve lived in Florida for three years and I have always wanted to see a hurricane. I leave and four of them hit in just over a month! It figures, but I wished I had seen that!

Remember to change your batteries.



Air Force Religious Schedule

Protestant

Sundays:

8 a.m. • Religious Education – H-6 Chapel
9 a.m. • Contemporary Worship – H-6 Chapel
10:30 a.m. • Traditional – Hospital
2 p.m. • Bible Study – Hospital
3 p.m. • Devotional – CSAR Theatre
5:30 p.m. • Inspirational Worship – T-Town Chapel

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays:
8:45 a.m. • Purpose Driven Life Study – CASF

Daily:

8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers – H-6 Chapel
9 p.m. • Prayer – H-6 Chapel

Islamic

Fridays:

1:30 p.m. • Prayer – Provider Chapel

Church of Christ

Sundays:

11 a.m. • Worship – 1/142nd Chapel Tent

Lutheran

Sundays:

8:30 a.m. • Cherokee Chapel
2 p.m. • 185th Task Force Tent

Roman Catholic

Sundays:

10:30 a.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel

Wednesdays:

9:30 a.m. • Mass – CASF

Fridays:

6 p.m. • Reconciliation – Hospital
6:30 p.m. • Mass – Hospital

Latter Day Saints

Sundays:

7 p.m. • Sacraments – H-6 Chapel
8 p.m. • Sunday School – H-6 Chapel

Thursdays:

7 p.m. • Study Group – H-6 Chapel

Jewish

Fridays:

6:30 p.m. • Prayer – Eden Chapel

Orthodox

Sundays:

11 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 185th Task Force Tent

Saturdays:

7 p.m. • Vespers – 185th Task Force Tent

Know what this is?



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$10 gift certificate courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Last week's photo of a dumpster went unidentified, so the \$5 carried over to this week.



Sustainer Movie Schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today
3 p.m. - Comics
6 p.m. - Comics
9 p.m. - Surviving Christmas

Saturday
3 p.m. - Hidalgo
6 p.m. - Surviving Christmas
9 p.m. - Open Water

Sunday
3 p.m. - Cookout
6 p.m. - Concert

9 p.m. - Black Cloud
Monday
3 p.m. - Superbabies
6 p.m. - I, Robot
9 p.m. - Suspect Zero

Tuesday
3 p.m. - Harold & Kumar
6 p.m. - Surviving Christmas
9 p.m. - Exorcist

Wednesday
3 p.m. - Black Cloud
6 p.m. - Dodgeball
9 p.m. - Superbabies

Thursday
3 p.m. - Hero
6 p.m. - Surviving Christmas
9 p.m. - Man on Fire



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All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

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